

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 17, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 17, 2009. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 9-13 and 25-41 are pending in the application. Claims 9-13 and 25-41 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 9-13, 25, 30, 32 and 37 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Further, Applicants are not conceding in this application that those amended (or canceled) claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these (pre-amended or canceled claims) and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Statement of Substance of Interview

On October 16, 2009, a telephonic interview was held between Johnny Lam (technical advisor) and Examiner Michael Pham. The parties discussed proposed amendments to the claims. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments should at least overcome the rejections of record. The proposed amendments are reflected in this response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With this response, Applicants have amended claim 32 to recite, *inter alia*, "storing, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record" Applicants submit that the claim, as amended, is directed to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is obviated.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-13 and 25-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 20040252888 by *Barger* *et. al.* (hereinafter *Barger*) further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 20040261016 by *Glass et. al.* (hereinafter *Glass*).

With this response, Applicants have amended the independent claim 9 to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein carrying the annotations forward comprises: storing or updating, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising: (i) an annotation of the annotations made for the current version of the document; (ii) an index that identifies positions in the subsequent version of the document; (iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) an annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document, corresponding to the annotation; and (iv) a versioning policy attribute" Independent claims 25, 32 and 37 have also been amended to recite similar limitations. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are not taught by the references, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is obviated.

Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 698-4286, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. MCCLELLAN, Reg. #44227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants